








| eCB signaling-microbiota partnership in ASD | Subjects /System model | Major Effects | | Study |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Gut microbiota dysbiosis <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> supplementation | Human HT-29 epithelial cells | Dysregulates the intestinal eCB system Increased intestinal cells CB2 receptor mRNA expression |   | Rousseaux et al., 2007 |
| eCB and PEA faecal levels | General population | Prediction of the association between gut microbial diversity and anhedonia |  | Minichino et al., 2021 |
| Prebiotic treatment: mucin-degrading Gram-negative bacterium | Children with ASD | <i>A. muciniphila</i> supplementation improves gut permeability/ increases 2-AG intestine levels |  | Everard et al., 2013 |
| Prebiotic treatment: mucin-degrading Gram-negative bacterium | Children with ASD | <i>A. muciniphila</i> supplementation provides beneficial effects dependent on eCB-derived lipids of the 2-AcGs family |  | Depommier et al., 2021 |
| Mucin-degrading Gram-negative bacterium | Children with ASD | Decreased <i>A. muciniphila</i> abundance |  | Wang et al., 2011 |
| Mucin-degrading Gram-negative bacterium | Children with ASD | Increased <i>A. muciniphila</i> abundance |  | De Angelis et al., 2013 |

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| Ultramicronized PEA + Luteolin coadministration | ASD-like BTBR mouse model | Decreased ASD- like repetitive behavior/ pro- inflammatory cytokine production/ intestinal permeability/ Increased sociability | ↓ ↑ | Cristiano et al., 2018 |
| B. longum probiotic mix (including <i>Lactobacillus</i> <i>acidophilus</i> and <i>B.</i> <i>infantis</i>) supplementation | <i>zebrafish</i> | Increase intestinal mRNA expression of Cnr1 and Cnr2 genes Decrease of <i>faah</i> and <i>mgll</i> gene expression | ↑ ↓ | Gioacchini et al., 2017 |
| <i>B. fragilis</i> supplementation | ASD-like MIA model | Improves social- communicative deficits/ integrity intestinal barrier | ↑ | Hsiao et al., 2013 |
| <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> | Children with ASD | ASD depletion of <i>B. longum</i> Decrease butyrate- producing bacteria | ↓ | Coretti et al., 2018 Sugahara et al., 2015 |
| Butyrate treatment | ASD-like VPA and BTBR models | Improvement memory and social behavior | ↑ | Takuma et al., 2014 Kratsman et al., 2016 |
| Butyrate and butyrate- producing bacteria | Children with ASD | Lower levels of butyrate and abundance of <i>Lachnospiraceae</i> | ↓ | Liu et al., 2013 |

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| Butyrate treatment (concentration-dependent effects) | Epithelial cell line Caco-2 | Decrease eCBs synthesizing enzymes (i.e., NAPE-PLD; DAGL) | ↓ | Hwang et al., 2021 |
| eCB system and signaling | Children with ASD vs ASD-like VPA murine model | eCB signaling FAAH and MAGL increased expression Decrease of 2-AG serum levels | ↓ ↑ ↓ | Zou et al., 2021 |
| Vitamin D | Vitamin D deficiency pregnancy Vitamin D supplementation | Risk of ASD Improve expression ASD symptoms | ↑ ↑ | Lee et al., 2021 Principi and Esposito, 2020 |
| PEA and vitamin D | Epithelial cell line Caco-2 | CB2 receptor activation | ↑ | Morsanuto et al., 2020 |
| Microglial cells morphology | ASD subjects | Changes in microglial cells phenotype (e.g., decreased ramified microglia) | ↕ | Lee et al., 2017 |
| PEA availability | Primary microglia cell culture | Increase microglial phagocytic/ Migratory activity | ↑ | Guida et al., 2017 |
| CBDV supplementation | ASD-like VPA murine model | Microglia activation/ Decrease deficit social behavior/ Upregulation CB2 RS | ↑ ↓ ↑ | Zamberletti et al., 2019 |
| <i>Bacteroides</i> | ASD subjects | Reduced levels | ↓ | Cao et al., 2021 |

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| <i>Bacteroides</i> | eCB-like production | High affinity GPR119 (2-OG and OEA) | ↑ | Cohen et al., 2017 |
| Systemic inflammation | ASD-like MIA murine mice | Segmented filamentous bacteria (SFB) promotes TH17 intestinal biogenesis | ↑ | Farkas et al. 2015 |
| | Mice lacking SFB | TH17-induced increase IL17-a plasma levels | ↑ | Kim et al., 2017 |
| | | Failure of MIA-induced ASD-like symptoms | ↓ | |
| AEA, Δ9-THC, CBD administration | TH17-driven diseases | Microglia activation/ | ↑ | Kozela et al., 2019; |
| | | Decrease deficits social behavior/ | ↓ | Jackson et al., 2014 |
| | | Upregulation CB2 Rs | ↑ | |
| <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> supplementation | Cecum and colon samples | Decrease SFB abundance | ↓ | Fuentes et al., 2008 |
| SCFAs supplementation Physical exercise | Gut microbiota-eCB system interaction | Anti-inflammatory activity via eCB signaling Increase SCFA-dependent AEA, OEA and PEA levels AEA and OEA correlation with SCFAs receptor expression | ↑ | Vijay et al., 2021 |

TABLE 2

Summary table of the key studies involving eCB signaling and gut microbiota crosstalk in both patients with ASD and ASD-like animal models.